



American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons®

317 Massachusetts Avenue NE 1st Floor Washington, D.C. 20002-5701
Phone 202/546-4430 Fax 202/546-5051 Internet www.aaos.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Richard H. Gelberman, M.D.
Washington University School of Medicine
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery
1 Barnes Jewish Hospital Plaza Drive
West Pavilion, Suite 11300
St. Louis, Missouri 63110

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Vernon T. Tolo, M.D.
4650 Sunser Boulevard, MS69
Los Angeles, California 90027

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

James H. Herndon, M.D.
Partners Healthcare Systems
55 Fruit St., GIB 624
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

SECRETARY

E. Anthony Rankin, M.D.
1160 Varnum St., #312
Washington, DC 20017-2107

TREASURER

Andrew J. Weiland, M.D.
Hospital for Special Surgery
535 E. 70th Street
New York, New York 10021

PAST PRESIDENTS

S. Terry Canale, M.D.
Germantown, TN 38138

Robert D. D'Ambrosia, M.D.
New Orleans, LA 70112

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Darren L. Johnson, M.D.
Lexington, Kentucky 40536-0284

Thomas P. Sculco, M.D.
New York, NY 10021

Stephen P. England, M.D.
St. Paul, MN 55101

James N. Weinstein, D.O.
Lebanon, NH 03756-0001

CHAIR

BOARD OF COUNCILORS

David A. Halsey, M.D.
Springfield, VT 05156-2003

CHAIR-ELECT

BOARD OF COUNCILORS

Lowry Jones, Jr., M.D.
Kansas City, MO 64111-3210

SECRETARY

BOARD OF COUNCILORS

Maurice Finnegan, M.D.
Dallas, TX 75390-8883

CHAIR

COUNCIL OF MUSCULOSKELETAL

SPECIALTY SOCIETIES

Gary E. Friedlaender, M.D.
New Haven, CT 06519

CHAIR-ELECT

COUNCIL OF MUSCULOSKELETAL

SPECIALTY SOCIETIES

Peter C. Amadio, M.D.
Rochester, MN 55905

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

William W. Tipton, Jr., M.D.
Rosemont, Illinois

July 17, 2001

The Honorable John Dingell
House Energy & Commerce Committee
2322 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Representative Dingell:

As Congress continues to move toward passage of a Patients' Bill of Rights, the American Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) and its 18,000 board-certified physicians would like to reiterate our strong support for meaningful patient protection legislation.

For the past year, we have been committed to working in a bipartisan fashion to develop legislation that would address our concerns. We appreciate your leadership on this issue and your efforts to make sure that a patient protection bill remains a priority for this Congress. And, we especially want to thank your staff, in particular, Bridgett Taylor, for her willingness to work with us and address our concerns. The AAOS has always encouraged the inclusion of important patient protections in any legislation. To that end, we are supportive of the provisions contained in H.R. 526, the "Bipartisan Patient Protection Act of 2001," to the extent it does embody our principles.

During the debate over patient protections, the AAOS has not wavered from its support of legislation that contains the following principles: access to a full range of medically necessary specialty care in-network; the ability to seek treatment out-of-network for a non-cost-prohibitive copayment; comprehensive information provided to all enrollees and prospective enrollees that allow them to make an informed choice about plan coverage; a ban on "gag clauses" which prohibit physicians from discussing treatment options with patients; and health care plan accountability through binding, expedited, independent external appeals mechanisms that permit review of coverage decision-making.

The "Bipartisan Patient Protection Act of 2001" contains true protections for our patients. We urge Congress to reach an agreement during this Congressional period, and hope that a vote can come to the floor this session.

Thank you for your continued support of this issue.

Sincerely,

William W. Tipton, Jr., MD
Executive Vice President, AAOS

